

Ms. A. 9. 2. 13. 79

Dear Friend:

I avail myself of the enforced leisure of a rainy day, which suspends my agricultural operations, to thank you for your well filled sheets - the interest of which to me you in no wise overstate when you place me in the predicament of one of yourselves when separated from the circum-wobbled centre of that knot. I reply in hopes of drawing forth a continuance of your pleasant substitutes for the ease chat phisher converse of that mischievous habitation - though it is something like Diomedes exchanging his iron armour for the golden mail of Glaucus for me to offer the small-talk of Dedham in return for the frequent gossip of the Anti-Slavery Metropolis. And yet I lie - as John Randolph used to say - far have I not to tell of the dissolution of the new organization plan which has been enacted by the Dedham F. A. S. Society. Well - they had their meeting yesterday & transacted their auxiliaryship to the M. F. E. Soc. by a vote of 27 to 18. This was accomplished after the most approved example of their new stock-mother by drawing up all manner of women ^{some} of whom were never seen before by some of the old Prof^s & many who had taken no interest in the cause - but who came cheek-pale in when the business was the another it. The rallying word was "the church is in danger!" & there new Loans of Are bestowed to the rescue of the idol in which they put their trust from the sacrilegious hands of those who would try its ^{actions} by the test of scorn & disputation. Mr. Houghton was chosen Pres^t. by the same vote - of course before the auxiliaryship was changed. As soon as that was done the minority withdrew from the Society - & so matters rest at present. The women who have withdrawn hold a meeting on Saturday afternoon to talk over the matter & decide what they had better do - whether to form another Soc. - or act as members of yours in Boston,

what notice, if any, should be publicly taken of it. Now I conceive
it to be very important that all this matter should be done exactly
right - as a model for the other women's societies in the country, which
are no doubt ~~likely~~ to go through the same process. And in order to this
I think it is all important that you should come out & be present at
the meeting. I suspected the possibility of your being there to some of them
& they were very earnest for it - & indeed fixed their meeting for
Sat^y in order that you might be there. The truth is, ^{between ourselves} that though these
women are as true as steel & will of course go substantially right, still
it is by no means impossible that they may go formally wrong - for their
ignorance of business is extraordinary. They have done just right so far,
but it has been only by continual drilling - line upon line & precept upon
precept - that they have been kept from committing great blunders. I think
you will see the importance of their having a judicious person who under-
stands the whole matter & knows just how to proceed, to help them. And you
are the very person to do it. Should you think the notice too short for
a visit to the Lamps? I press you to come without ceremony to my
house. We are always ready to receive company from with not dismay.
us in the least. Indeed I think you had better pay me a visit in this
occasion & the S. one at some other time. So I enclose that matter
as settled & shall expect to see you drive up in the R. R. convenient
(which is the exact image of the one which conveys the frail & the faulty
to the House of Correction) on Friday ev^g. It seems to me that there had
better be a brief statement of facts & of the reasons which made them feel
obliged to withdraw drawn up for the Liberator & a series of strong
resolutions about Newby^r - the Map^y & Loc. - the Liberator &c. - to be
adopted whether they approve anew or not. And it is ^{my} opinion that
the same had better be draughted in that it - among you - brought
out in your pocket in case of an emergency. No doubt it might be
so managed as to avoid the appearance of foreign interference.
I think, as I said before, that it is particularly important that this affair
should be conducted exactly right as it is the first of the series of attacks which
are to be made in the Female Loc^s throughout Mass^t. - & I do not believe
that it will go exactly right unless you can continue to be there. So I enclose
just now at your peril - as the writ runs. - I forgot to mention the addi-
tional inducement of hearing a lecture on Sunday eve^g from the very
humblest of your servants - which of itself should be a sufficient
attraction - as the theatrical puffs say - to induce you to come.
I rec^d a letter from Maria on Tuesday ev^g - dated Sunday -
touching "Pinder" which I answered yesterday by W^m Parker. I

was glad to see her hand of write once more & hear so good
accounts of Henry's convalescence. I feel no doubt now, of his getting
entirely over it. As riding on horseback is advised in such cases I am
recommending him to mount my hobby & take a pleasant canter in
the domain of Graham. I shall not consider that it is quite perfect until
it has banished forth of its limits all riotous eating of flesh & the
carcasses of dead animals as food. The chain of ultraism is incomplete
without this last link.

I had a very pleasant visit to Sam & quite a full house. Martha Smith
& her friend were there & we had some very pleasant talk. How lucky it was
that she happened upon the double-faced & double-named Mansford alias
Colman before the 4th of July! only imagine the notor of the human
race, in the birth day of his country, being arrested in the pulpit &
equanimously dropped to prison for bilking his lodgings! And yet this
would have been no improbable event had the affair gone on. What
motive could induce an adventurer to come among abolitionists of
all the birds in the air I cannot conceive. Surely not for any money
or worldly good name he could get among them. I wrote to Bro. May a
few days since & propounded his case to him as a proper one for the
exercise of his charity. I trust the Abolitionists will not get bold of this
scandal - though that can hardly be expected. But if they are
down upon us in his account it will afford an opportunity for
a parallel, after the manner of Plutarch, between him & Phelps.
Tommy or some of the other leaders - which I apprehend will not be
to the disadvantage of our good man friend. How I long to see the
treasures contained in the archives of the American Society. I trust they
will be imparted from time to time for the refreshment of the laity.

Mina proposed to me writing to Gen. Tappan to ask him to write a
word of commendation & encouragement to that standard. I have no assign-
-ment with that worthy man except a self-introduction at the N. E. Con-
-tion & think she had better write to him on the subject. Still if it is thought
best I will make bold to epistolize him.

Last Saturday was celebrated, as I suppose you know, by the Whigs of Norfolk
at Dedham. Log-cabins - hard cider - Harrison badges & banners the
order of the day. What is remarkable is that the Ladies participated in
the proceedings - walked in the procession with a truly patriotic contempt
of sin & death - went to the dinner &c - which the very same persons would
no doubt be shocked at the idea of acting in an A. S. Society. Truly the
Sphere of woman" must be made of Caoutchouc of the most
elastic description ^{it is well} ~~must~~ to accommodate the never ending ~~desires~~ ^{men-}
-sisterhood of this goat-straining & camel-swallowing generation!
When she can be used as the tool of man for the accomplishment of his
ambitions or sectarian designs, to change the administration of the State
or to sustain that of the Church & her sphere is just where she can be used

Ch. Bx. 9.

Single Sheet

PAID

A circular red ink stamp from the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The text "BODLEIAN LIBRARY" is curved along the top inner edge, and "OXFORD" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "1890" is stamped. To the right of the date, the letters "MS." are printed. A handwritten letter "C" is visible in the upper right corner of the stamp.

Caroline Weston.

Case of H. G. Chapman.

Boston.

Pres.

Dear to all. Truly, Thine, Frederick Douglass.
 11. Reading the "willing" by calling a man "gay," is the only & certainly the best
 name you can know that is so comforting like the sweet life of calling a man "gay" as
 a Black Man while, if a man is a proper friend, he will return by
 a sweetly knowing you down - if you are a friend. down - ends
 yours. F. D.

regard to his intolerant orthodox opponents in Brooklyn only that they were honest. I told him that if he could retain his good opinion of the N. Y. Abolitionists after reading their address that his charity was not only "discreased" but that it was in the very blue stage not to say in a state of collapse. I entreated him moreover that if he would insist upon keeping so refractory a heart that he would at least ride it with a curb-rein so that it should not kick or hurt either his own friends for the comfort & amusement of his other enemies. But it is like firing musket bullets into a cotton bag - a mere waste of powder & shot - to attempt to pierce his triple mail. I shall expect to see you on Friday night without fail. You could spend a couple of very pleasant days here among the true blue Abolitionists & you should have some choice of churches on Sunday or you may go.